

APPENDIX OF CLAIMS

The claims on appeal are:

1. A method of controlling volume levels in a processor-based system comprising:
obtaining an indicia of the volume level of audio information received by said system;
comparing the indicia to a preset level; and
automatically adjusting the volume level towards said preset level.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein comparing includes comparing the indicia to a high volume preset level and a low volume preset level and wherein automatically adjusting includes adjusting the volume level to a volume level between the high and low preset levels.
3. The method of claim 1 further including receiving audio information from a remote control unit and using the audio information received at said remote control unit as said indicia.
4. The method of claim 1 including providing a graphical user interface and allowing a user to input said preset level.
5. The method of claim 4 further including automatically generating a plurality of sounds of increasing volume and receiving a user selection of a desired volume level.

6. The method of claim 5 including correlating the time period when a user selection was received to the volume of the sound being generated at the time the user selection was received and recording that volume level as the preset level.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein automatically adjusting the volume level includes automatically adjusting the volume level to the preset level when the volume would otherwise exceed the preset level.

8. The method of claim 1 including allowing the user to set the preset level through a remote control unit.

9. The method of claim 1 including receiving said indicia at a location remote from said system.

10. An article comprising a medium for storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to:

obtain an indicia of the volume level of audio information received by said system;

compare the indicia to a preset level; and

automatically adjust the volume level towards said preset level.

11. The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to compare the indicia to a high volume preset level and a low volume preset level and adjust the volume level to a volume level between the high and low preset levels.

12. The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to receive audio information from a remote control unit and use the audio information received at the remote control unit as the indicia.

13. The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to produce a graphical user interface to allow a user to input the preset level through said graphical user interface.

14. The article of claim 13 further storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to automatically generate a plurality of sounds of increasing volume and receive a user selection of a desired volume level.

15. The article of claim 14 further storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to correlate the time period when a user selection was received to the volume of the sound being generated at the time the user selection was received and record that volume level as said preset level.

16. The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to automatically adjust the volume level to the preset level when the volume would otherwise exceed the preset level.

17. The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to allow the user to set a preset level through a remote control unit.

18. The article of claim 14 further storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to progressively produce sounds of decreasing volume and to monitor for a user input command indicative that the user has selected the volume level of one of said sounds as said preset level.

19. A processor-based system comprising:
a processor;
a storage coupled to said processor;
a sound generating circuit coupled to said processor; and
software stored on said storage to control the sound generated by said circuit in accordance with a pre-set volume limit.

20. The system of claim 19 further including a transceiver and a remote control unit, said remote control unit communicating with said processor through said transceiver.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein said remote control unit includes a microphone for receiving sounds generated by said sound generating circuit, said microphone coupled to a controller in said remote control unit, said controller sending signals to said processor indicative of the sound levels received from said processor.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein said remote control unit and said transceiver communicate through infrared signals.

23. The system of claim 19 wherein said storage also stores software for producing a graphical user interface to enable the user to input the preset volume limit.

24. The system of claim 22 wherein said storage stores software which causes said sound generating circuit to automatically generate a series of time spaced tones to enable the user to select a tone volume as said preset volume limit.

25. The system of claim 19 wherein said storage stores a pre-set high volume limit and a pre-set low volume limit and said software controls the volume of sounds produced by said sound generating circuits to arrange within said high and said low volume limits.

26. The system of claim 19 wherein said software is adapted to increase the volume level when the sound produced by said circuit is at a level proximate to said lower volume limit and to reduce the sound when the sound level is proximate to said higher volume limit.